

**CH-780**

**1930**

**Nanjemoy High School**

**Nanjemoy**

**Private**

The Nanjemoy School was constructed in 1930 as one of four consolidated schools in Charles County. These schools were intended to replace the earlier local one and two-room frame structures in use since at least the mid-19th century. The brick and frame building is believed to have been built to resemble the original Colonial Revival-style Lackey High School. In 1939 a one-story dependency was added to the north elevation which forms an overall L.

Although extensively altered, Nanjemoy High School is the only one of the original four consolidated schools to survive that conveys a sense of its original architecture. In 1946, the school was converted into a middle school, and in 1965 it became an elementary school until the opening of Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy School in 1984. It was vacant until 1991 when the former school was converted for use as a multi-service center.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

CH-780

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Nanjemoy School

other

### 2. Location

street and number 4375 Port Tobacco Road not for publication

city, town Nanjemoy X vicinity

county Charles

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name County Commissioners of Charles County

street and number PO Box 2150 telephone

city, town La Plata state MD zip code 20646

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 51 p. 254

city, town La Plata liber 1009 folio

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report  
☐ Other

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

## 7. Description

Inventory No. CH-780

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Nanjemoy School was constructed in 1930 as one of four consolidated schools in Charles County that were constructed to replace the earlier local one or two room frame structures in use since at least the mid-19th century. The brick and frame building stands on six acres on the east side of Port Tobacco Road, in the western section of Charles County. The Nanjemoy School includes elements that mimic the Prairie Style, most noticeable the wide cornice that provides a prominent horizontal band. Today the building is characterized by a two-story main block flanked by two one-story dependencies. In 1939 a one-story dependency was added to the north elevation which forms an overall L. The most significant change to the building was the removal of the large banks of windows throughout and the inappropriate replacement with much smaller 1/1 windows surrounded by vinyl siding. The roof consists of composition shingles.

The front elevation has a main block with a prominent arched entranceway accented with a keystone. The second floor includes two sets of narrow 1/1 replacement windows on the second story below similar first floor fenestration. The original wings mirror one another consisting of two large altered bays. The south elevation includes an arched doorway, although much smaller, mimics that found on the front elevation. The rear second story elevation generally mirrors the front elevation. The one story half hipped roof rear addition holds two sets of narrow symmetrical 1/1 windows.

The 1939 wing stands out slightly from the original east elevation. It includes two altered banks of windows on the front elevation. The prominent cornice is continued on the west and north elevations. An arched entranceway is found on the north wall. The 1965 addition creates abuts the east wall of this addition, creating an overall L. The wing does not include any of the decorative details on the original structure.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-780

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1930; 1939

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1930; 1939

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Nanjemoy School was constructed in 1930, as one of four county schools for grades 1-11. Although extensively altered, it is only one of two to survive and the only one that in any way conveys its original architecture. In this year, the County's one-room schools were consolidated into four major education centers, La Plata, Glasva, Lackey, and Nanjemoy. African-American students continued to attend one-room schools through the 1950's. In 1946, Nanjemoy School became a middle school, and in 1965 it became an elementary school until the opening of Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy School to the east in 1984. It was vacant until 1991 when the former school was converted for use as a multi-service center.

The period following the Civil War saw the greatest advances in a county-wide system of education. In 1867, there were thirty-six public schools located in Charles County. Five of these were log structures and the rest were frame buildings. By the following year, there were an additional six schools for African-American children in the county. Throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century, education in Charles County was mainly based on primary schools with one teacher located in one-room school houses. This simple system was enhanced by the county's first secondary institute opened in 1903 in La Plata. Known as the McDonough Institute, this school was funded by a trust set up by Maurice James McDonough in his will of 1804. His initial investment of \$2,000 was earmarked for the education of the poor and orphaned children of Charles County. The trustees appointed to carry out McDonough's wishes decided to invest the money and let it accumulate. It was not until nearly a century after McDonough's death that the trustees found an opportunity to carry out the philanthropist's plan. By 1902, the fund had grown to \$50,000. With the money, the trustees purchased the Lintner School building at La Plata and opened McDonough Institute in 1903. The institute served as a primary and secondary school for the entire county, offering academic, commercial, and agricultural classes. McDonough Institute was Charles County's only high school until 1924.

### ENDNOTES

(1) The other surviving example is the current County Government building which was originally the La Plata Consolidated School, which has gone through a series of complete reconstructions.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 6.83

Acreage of historical setting 6.83

Quadrangle name Nanjemoy

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Nanjemoy School is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 51, parcel 254.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 6/23/2003

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

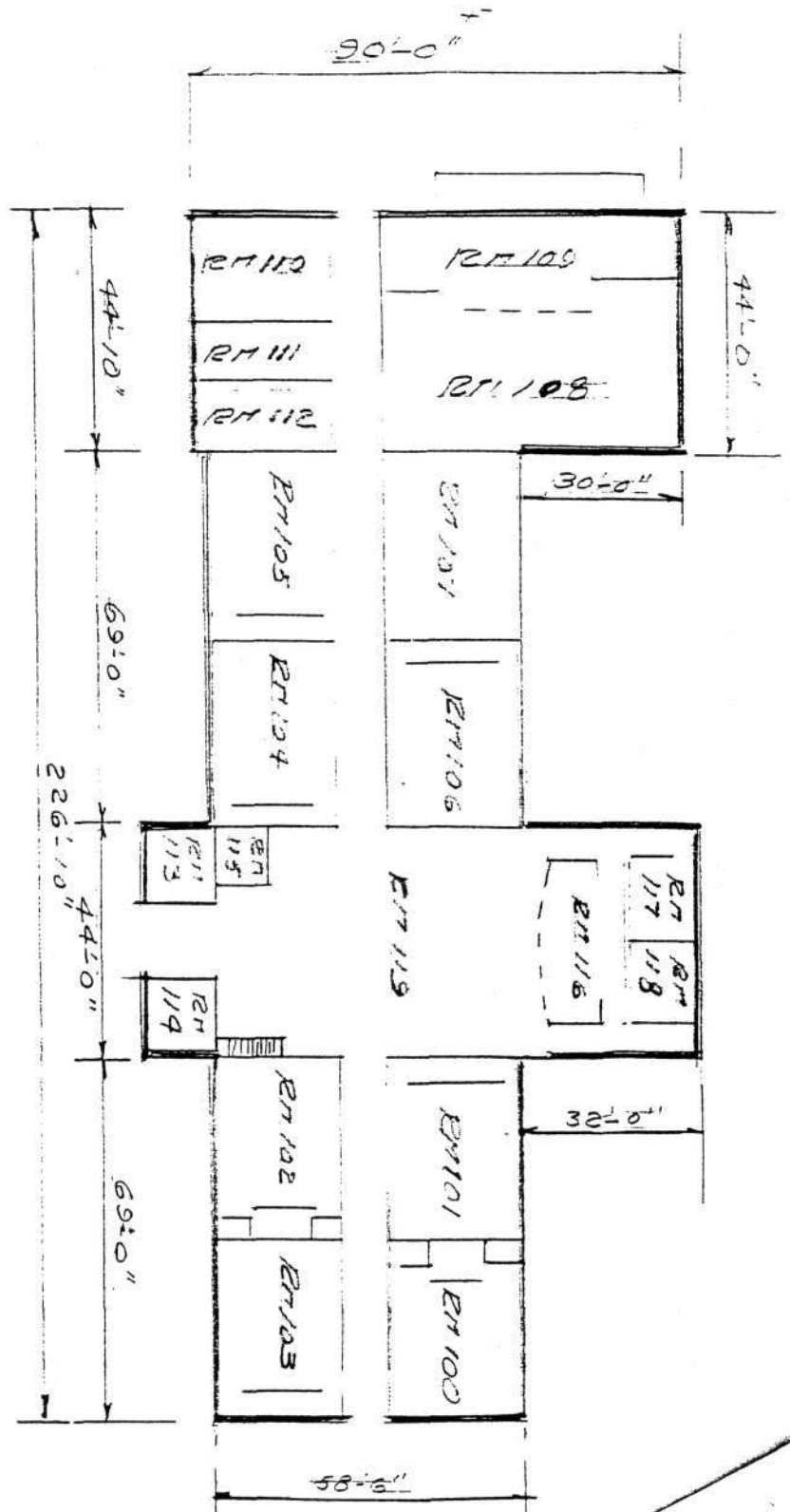
city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

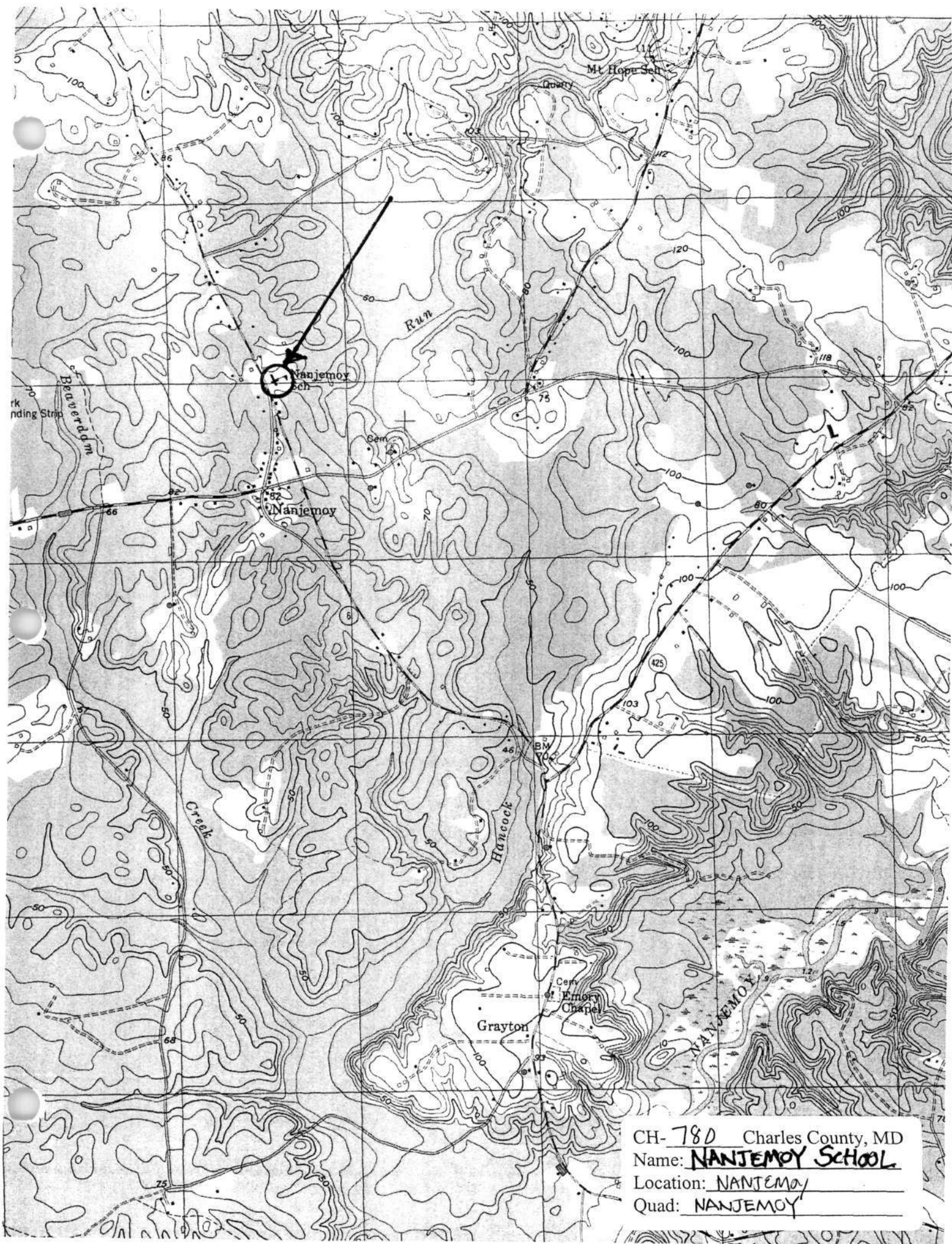
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600



NANJEMOY SCHOOL  
 EXISTING FLOOR PLAN C. 1990  
 GEORGE DYSON

CH-780 Charles County, MD  
 Name: NANJEMOY SCHOOL  
 Location: NANJEMOY  
 Quad: NANJEMOY





CH- 780 Charles County, MD  
Name: **NANJEMOY SCHOOL**  
Location: **NANJEMOY**  
Quad: **NANJEMOY**





CH-780

NANJEMOY SCHOOL

CHARLES CO., MD

5/2003

C. HARDY

MD

LOOKING SOUTH

SHPO

10F3



CH-780

~~CH-120~~

~~THE PLAINS~~ NANJEMOY School

CHARLES CO., MD

5/2003

C. HARDY

MD

SHPO

LOOKING

NORTH

2 of 3



CH-780

NANJEMOY SCHOOL

CHARLES CO., MD

5/2003

C. HARDY      ~~SHPO~~

MD      SHPO

REAR ELEVATION

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